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DE RUEHSG #0127 0221936
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
R 221936Z JAN 07
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 0801
INFO RUEHBK/AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES 0049
RUEHLP/AMEMBASSY LA PAZ JAN CARACAS 1242

UNCLAS SANTIAGO 000127

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STATE FOR IIP/G/WHA, INR/R/MR, WHA/BSC, WHA/PDA, INR/IAA

AMEMBASSY FOR PAO/IO

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OPRC KMDR KPAQ CI AR BL VE

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION - MERCOSUR SUMMIT IN RIO

On January 21, conservative, independent "La Tercera" (circ. 101,000) carried an opinion column by journalist and former diplomat Jose Rodriguez Elizondo entitled "Mercosur: Histrionics and Strategy." Quote:

"One could say that Chavez' strategy is antithetical to Bolivar's dream of integration, but we cannot deny that it does exist. On the contrary, the rest of the region has focused on the dilemma of whether it is good or bad that after 9/11 the White House has eliminated us from its agenda. Instead of integrationist actions, we are like those dumb hares [in a fable] discussing whether their chasers are greyhounds or bloodhounds."

KELLY